



THE MAGIC ASTEROID

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The magic is accomplished on the ASTEROID grid using four special cards. The reader should copy the cards and paste them back to back: RITA-ODES, DEAR-OTIS, TOAD-SIRE and SAID-ROTE.

One or more subjects (it could be a roomful) suggest which side of the four cards shows, front or back. The magician secretly writes down a prediction.

The subjects are then each asked to privately select a letter from ASTEROID. They also must choose to either tell the truth to the four questions to be asked or to lie to all four.

The four questions of course are the questions showing on the four cards. Then, starting on their chosen letter they traverse the ASTEROID grid on their "yes" answers and end on their final letter.

For instance, suppose they chose S initially and answered "yes" only to the TOAD card and the DEAR card. They then would travel from S over the solid black path and then the single line path, or visa-versa, and end on the letter D.

Another example for the reader. Choose an ASTEROID letter and suppose the four cards show RITA-TOAD-DEAR-SAID. Answer the four questions according to the quirk of always lying or always telling the truth and follow the paths of your "yes" answers from your initial letter choice.

I predict you ended on A. In fact as the cards lie everyone in your audience would always end on A if they followed the rules correctly.

This is a self working trick that can force any one of the 8 letters on every member of the audience. The magician notes the force letter thusly. On any given arrangement of the four cards there will be exactly one letter that either appears on all four or fails to appear on all four. This will be the force letter. In our last example notice that A appears on all four cards. It is easy to change the force. For instance, in the example flip TOAD over to SIRE and O becomes the new force.